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International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : <b>C07K 5/02, C07D 487/04, 498/04, A61K 38/08, 31/55</b>	<b>A2</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 97/22619</b>
		(43) International Publication Date: 26 June 1997 (26.06.97)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/20843

(22) International Filing Date: 20 December 1996 (20.12.96)

## (30) Priority Data:

08/575,641	20 December 1995 (20.12.95)	US
08/598,332	8 February 1996 (08.02.96)	US
08/712,878	12 September 1996 (12.09.96)	US
60/031,495	26 November 1996 (26.11.96)	US
08/761,483	6 December 1996 (06.12.96)	US

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(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published***Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.*(54) Title: INHIBITORS OF INTERLEUKIN-1 $\beta$  CONVERTING ENZYME

## (57) Abstract

The present invention relates to novel classes of compounds which are inhibitors of interleukin-1 $\beta$  converting enzyme. The ICE inhibitors of this invention are characterized by specific structural and physicochemical features. This invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds. The compounds and pharmaceutical compositions of this invention are particularly well suited for inhibiting ICE activity and consequently, may be advantageously used as agents against IL-1-, apoptosis-, IGIF-, and IFN- $\gamma$ - mediated diseases, inflammatory diseases, autoimmune diseases, destructive bone disorders, proliferative disorders, infectious diseases, degenerative diseases, and necrotic diseases. This invention also relates to methods for inhibiting ICE activity, for treating interleukin-1-, apoptosis-, IGIF- and IFN- $\gamma$ -mediated diseases and decreasing IGIF and IFN- $\gamma$  production using the compounds and compositions of this invention. This invention also relates to methods for preparing N-acylamino compounds.